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FROM: Robert A. Yesukevich, Esq.

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SENT BY: Robert Holland

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RE: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/070,282
Request for Prosecution Status Update

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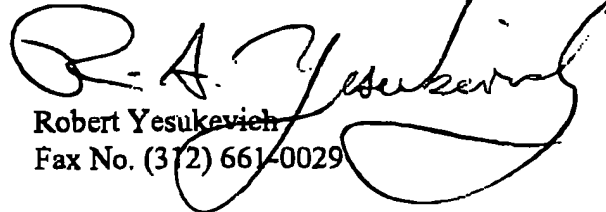
Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/070,282
Request for Prosecution Status Update
Our File No. 202325-9001

Dear Sir:

Please communicate by fax the present prosecution status of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/070,282; which was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 4, 2002.

As you can see from the attachment, which is the first page of International Publication No. WO 01/18147 A1, a related international patent application was published on March 15, 2001, designating the United States.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLC

Robert Yesukevich
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RAY/rh

Attachment

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CROMPTON CORPORATION (US/US); 199 Benson Road, Middlebury, CT 06749 (US).

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(54) Title: QUATERNARY AMMONIUM SALTS AS THICKENING AGENTS FOR AQUEOUS SYSTEMS

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to the use of alkyl amido quaternary ammonium salts, and formulations thereof, as thickening agents in aqueous based fluids, especially those used in oil field applications. The quaternary ammonium salts of the present invention exhibit improved gelling characteristics.

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